UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/52/608
21 November 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Fifty-second session
Agenda item 79

AFRICAN NUCLEAR-WEAPON-FREE ZONE TREATY

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Miloš KOTEREC (Slovakia)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The item entitled "African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty" was included in the provisional agenda of the fifty-second session of the General Assembly in accordance with Assembly resolution 51/53 of 10 December 1996.

2. At its 4th plenary meeting, on 19 September 1997, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the First Committee.

3. At its 2nd meeting, on 9 October 1997, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on all disarmament and international security items allocated to it, namely, items 62 to 82, which was held at the 3rd to 12th meetings, from 13 to 17 and from 20 to 24 October (see A/C.1/52/PV.3-12). Structured discussions of specific subjects on the adopted thematic approach were held at six informal meetings, from 27 to 31 October. Draft resolutions on the items were considered at the 15th to 17th meetings, from 5 to 7 November (see A/C.1/52/PV.15-17); action was taken on them at the 18th to 24th meetings, from 10 to 14 and on 17 November (see A/C.1/52/PV.18-24).

4. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it a letter dated 1 October 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the communiqué of the Meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries to the fifty-second session of the General Assembly, held in New York on 25 September 1997 (A/52/447-S/1997/775).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.1/52/L.26

5. At the 16th meeting, on 6 November, Kenya, on behalf of the Group of African States, introduced a draft resolution entitled "African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty" (A/C.1/52/L.26).

6. At its 18th meeting, on 10 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/52/L.26 without a vote (see para. 7).

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

7. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 51/53 of 10 December 1996 and all its other relevant resolutions, as well as those of the Organization of African Unity,

Recalling also the successful conclusion of the signing ceremony of the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba)[1] that took place at Cairo on 11 April 1996,

Recalling further the Cairo Declaration adopted on that occasion,[2] which emphasized that nuclear-weapon-free zones, especially in regions of tension, such as the Middle East, enhance global and regional peace and security,

Noting the statement made by the President of the Security Council on behalf of the members of the Council on 12 April 1996,[3] in which it was stated that the signature of the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty constituted an important contribution by the African countries to the maintenance of international peace and security,

Considering that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones, especially in the Middle East, would enhance the security of Africa and the viability of the African nuclear-weapon-free zone,

---

[1] See A/50/426.

[2] A/51/113-S/1996/276, annex; see Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-first Year, Supplement for April, May and June 1996, document S/1996/276.

[3] Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-first Year, Resolutions and Decisions of the Security Council, 1996, document S/PRST/1996/17.

1. Calls upon African States that have not yet done so to sign and ratify the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty[1] as soon as possible so that it may enter into force without delay;

2. Expresses its appreciation to the nuclear-weapon States that have signed the Protocols that concern them, and calls upon those which have not yet ratified the Protocols concerning them to do so as soon as possible;

3. Calls upon the States contemplated in Protocol III to the Treaty that have not yet done so to take all necessary measures to ensure the speedy application of the Treaty to territories for which they are, de jure or de facto, internationally responsible and which lie within the limits of the geographical zone established in the Treaty;

4. Calls upon the African States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons[4] that have not yet concluded comprehensive safeguards agreements with the International Atomic Energy Agency pursuant to the Treaty to do so, thereby satisfying the requirements of article 9 (b) of and annex II to the Treaty of Pelindaba when it enters into force;

5. Expresses its gratitude to the Secretary-General for the diligence with which he has rendered effective assistance to the signatories to the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty in accordance with resolution 51/53;

6. Expresses its gratitude to the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity and the Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency for the diligence with which they have rendered effective assistance to the signatories to the Treaty;

7. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled "African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty".

---

[4] United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 729, No. 10485.